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LAC-IEE-11-74

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location:	LAC Regional
Activity Title:	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Climate Change Program (staffing, technical assistance, studies, and training)
Activity Number:	TBD
Life-of-Activity Funding:	\$32 million
Life-of-Activity:	FY 2011 – FY 2015
IEE prepared by:	Christine Pendzich, LAC/RSD/E
Reference Threshold Decision:	none
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion, Deferral
Bureau Threshold Decision:	Concur with Recommendation
Comments:	

A **Categorical Exclusion** issued to the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Climate Change Program for the proposed staffing, technical assistance, regional studies analyses and workshops under SO 22, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2):

- (i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);
- (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

(xiv) Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

A **Deferral** is issued to all activities under the LAC Regional Climate Change Program that are not categorically excluded from additional environmental review, and may cause adverse environmental impacts [see to 216.3(a) (7) (iii) Environmental Review After Authorization of Financing]. When these activities are better defined – at the time of approval of the procurement and/or approval of work plans in procured mechanisms – an IEE amendment will be submitted and an ETD issued for these activities before they can be implemented. The procurement mechanism(s) will specifically mention incorporation of environmental review and compliance with 22 CFR 216 in ICAA activity design.

Responsibilities

- Each activity manager or Contracting/Agreement Officer Technical Representative (COTR or AOTR) is responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met (ADS 204.3.4). In addition, COTRs and AOTRs are responsible for ensuring that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed, mitigation measures in the IEE are funded and implemented, and that adequate monitoring and evaluation protocols are in place to ensure implementation of mitigation measures.
- It is the responsibility of the Strategic Objective (SO) Team to ensure that environmental compliance language from the ETD is added to procurement and obligating documents, such as activity-related Strategic Objective Grant Agreements (SOAGs) and Modified Acquisition and Assistance Request Documents (MAARDs).
- The Mission Environmental Officer will conduct spot checks to ensure that conditions in the IEE and this ETD are met. These evaluations will review whether guidelines are properly used to implement activities under this ETD in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner according to USAID and applicable U.S. Government policies and regulations.
- The implementing contractor or partner will ensure that all activities conducted under this instrument comply with this ETD. Also, through its regular reporting requirements, a section on environmental compliance (e.g. mitigation monitoring results) will be included.

Amendments

- Amendments to Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) shall be submitted for LAC Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approval for any activities not specifically covered in the IEE, which include:
 - Funding level increase beyond ETD amount,
 - Time period extension beyond ETD dates (even for no cost extension), or

- A change in the scope of work, such as the use of pesticides or activities subject to Foreign Assistance Act sections 118 and 119 (e.g. procurement of logging equipment), among others.
- Amendments to IEEs include Environmental Assessments (EA or PEA) and approval of these documents by the LAC BEO could require an annual evaluation for environmental compliance.

Victor H. Bullen Date 09-21-2011
Victor H. Bullen
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to: Lawrence Rubey, LAC/RSD, Office Director
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CAR), Jason Girard (REA SA)

Copy to: IEE File

Attachment: Initial Environmental Examination

File: P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDPUB\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE11\ LAC-IEE-11-61 (LAC - Health Advancement, amend LAC-IEE-09-51, 08-05, 08-04, 07-40, 04-07).doc



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(LAC-IEE-11-74)

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Activity Location:	LAC Regional
Activity Title:	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Climate Change Program (staffing, technical assistance, studies, and training)
Activity Number:	xxx
Life-of-Activity Funding:	\$32,000,000
Life-of-Activity:	FY 2011 – FY 2015
IEE prepared by:	Christine Pendzich, LAC/RSD/E
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion, Deferral

1. Background and activity/program description

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the IEE

The purpose of this Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Amendment is to approve the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Global Climate Change (GCC) Support Program to fund staffing, technical assistance, studies, and training through FY 2015. The program will be managed by the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean's Office of Regional Sustainable Development (LAC/RSD)

1.2 Background

The LAC GCC Support Program is included under LAC/RSD Environment Strategic Objective 22 (SO-22) and its components are included in the FY 2010 Operational Plan under Objective 4.8.

Consistent with USG and USAID policy, the LAC GCC Support Program will provide technical support, training and orientation tools and methodologies to the bilateral and regional Missions

in the LAC region, as well as directly address a very small number of key regional opportunities in LAC for: a) mitigation (reduction) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and b) adaptation to major ecological and economic changes expected to occur due to climate change. The goal of the program is to enhance climate resilience and increase emissions reductions through technical assistance, provision of training and orientation, coordination with other major regional donors in the region, and targeted engagement in direct assistance where regional synergies can clearly be obtained.

1.3. Activity Description

LAC GCC Support Program activities will include regional studies related to environmental programming and developing strategies (conducted internally and by NGOs, academic institutions, and other organizations), technical assistance to missions and partners (mainly through TDYs), and training for Agency staff, partners, and other stakeholders.

Illustrative activities include:

- Development of a **regional GCC strategy** that takes into account the most current climate science available for the region; regional governments' priorities; activities of other donors; and GCC activities already under way.
- Strengthening of **regional and bilateral Mission capacity** to effectively and strategically engage in climate change issues, through training, provision of technical assistance and increasing the number of staff informed about and engaged in climate change programming.

Design and implementation of 2-3 regional projects that advance the strategy goals and are most efficiently addressed at a regional scale. These are likely to include research project(s), workshop(s), information dissemination, and policy analysis, for example regarding glacier retreat in the Andes and its effects on national and regional water supplies. Regional projects identified to date include: support to SERVIR, a climate change information center based in Central America, to forge more interactive and productive relationships with current and potential end-users of the data it produces; a partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International to conduct dialogues on key aspects of climate change in the region; provision of technical assistance on conducting vulnerability assessments and programming adaptation funding to Missions; support to enhance the development of international REDD+ architecture and country-level REDD+ Readiness in the LAC region through the for the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities task order (EGAT); and funding from the Department of State for "AmaZONAS Andinas", a program to build forest monitoring capacity and develop demonstration projects to test approaches to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in the Andean Amazon. AmaZONAS Andinas demonstration projects may include activities such as support for reforestation, sustainable forest management, and other conservation efforts with potential for direct environmental impact.

In addition, funds under the LAC GCC Support Program will be used to support LAC/RSD Climate Change staff such as the Climate Change Advisor, EC-LEDS Coordinator and others, to be hired through the LAC/RSD Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) with the US Forest Service.

Locations affected cover Washington DC, and the Latin America and Caribbean Region, including both USAID-presence and non-presence countries.

2. Evaluation of potential environmental impact

Staffing, regional studies, technical assistance, and training under the LAC GCC Support Program will not cause significant adverse environmental impacts. Once activities which may have environmental impacts (such as reforestation, afforestation, restoration) within AmaZONAS Andinas or other yet-to-be identified projects have been better defined, but before implementation begins, these activities will be subject to additional environmental review. Such additional review would also apply to any other activities within the LAC GCC Support Program, for example any proposals to construct minor infrastructure such as weather monitoring stations.

3. Recommended Environmental Threshold Decision

Categorical Exclusion

The proposed staffing, technical assistance, regional studies analyses and workshops under SO 22 qualify for a categorical exclusion under 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2):

(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

(iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

(xiv) Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

Therefore, a **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for activities under SO-22 that fall under the above categories.

Deferral

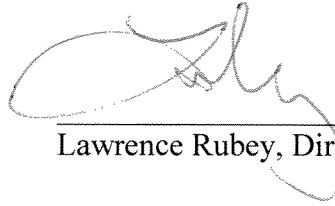
A **Deferral** is recommended for all activities under ~~ICAA~~ that are not categorically excluded from additional environmental review. When the activities are better defined – at the time of approval of the procurement and/or approval of work plans in procured

LAC GCC Program

mechanisms – a supplemental IEE will be submitted and an ETD issued for these activities before they can be implemented. The procurement mechanism(s) will specifically mention incorporation of environmental review and compliance with 22 CFR 216 in ~~ICAA~~ activity design.

the IEE program

Approval





Date

7/5/2011

Lawrence Rubey, Director, LAC/RSD

Clearance Page:

Clearance:

LAC/RSD, Chris Cushing  Date 9/21/11
LAC/RSD/E Christine Pendzich  Date 9/20/2011

Drafted:CPendzich:CP:9-12-11:P:\RSDPUB\ENV\Reg 216\IEE\IEE11\Background Docs
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